

Developments

DCVAMC Facility Updates

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Spring 2010

Major Construction Projects Get Underway



To make your experience at the “Flagship of VA Health Care” even better, the Medical Center is currently undergoing a number of renovation and construction projects. These projects will improve and enlarge many areas. Keep-up-to-date by monitoring our website: <http://www.washingtondcva.gov> and Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WashingtonDCVAMC>.

We have already completed a number of facility improvements including: an internet café, renovated canteen and retail store, new halls and walls, and new signage. In addition, several major construction projects are in the works like the new Fisher House, domiciliary, parking garage and major overhauls of the women’s clinic, research building and pharmacy.

We have expanded our patient parking and are doing our best to minimize inconvenience to you and your family members. We welcome your questions or suggestions. Write to us: Office of Public Affairs at the address indicated on this page.

May: Month of Many Moves

A larger and more centrally located pharmacy is being planned for the Flagship VA Medical Center in Washington, DC. That’s just one of scores of upgrades and new construction that will take place over the course of the next several years. In pushing ahead on the 17,000 square foot Pharmacy project, DCVAMC will need to relocate several departments. To make these transitions as easy as possible for Veterans, most of the moves will involve departments whose customers are DCVAMC staff. The initial moves have already begun.



Brenton Service, Human Resource Specialist, packs his office in preparation for Human Resource’s move to room 1J140.

Please make note of the following changes:

Human Resource Service, Fiscal Service, Project Management and Payroll are all moving to the new “swing space” area 1J140. This area is located in the hallway just beyond Dental Service. This is the hallway that leads to the employee garage.

Veterans should note that the DCVAMC Patient Advocate Office is to be relocated to room 1B112, on the main level, past the Executive Suite, at the end of the hallway. Nutrition and Food Service will move to room 1C111.

All office phone numbers will remain the same and a map depicting the various office moves will soon be available on the Medical Center’s website. www.washingtondc.va.gov

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Transforming the Hospital E

Healing Garden to Offer Calm Respite

Veterans and their family members will soon have a peaceful “At Ease Garden” in which to stroll and reflect. It will feature lush vegetation, circular walkways, park benches and a koi pond overlooking the Nation’s capital. The garden will promote a therapeutic healing environment and allow residents to participate in horticultural therapy. It is expected to be open in this July.

Women’s Clinic

The Women’s Health Clinic has outgrown its current 1,500 square foot clinic and plans are underway to transform the clinic into an almost 10,000 square foot Women’s Health Pavilion. Construction is slated to begin January 2011.



The pavilion will have more exam rooms and a private check-in area. When complete, female Veterans will be able to get their gender-specific care and primary care and in one location.

Remember, staff and Veterans can keep-up-to-date on Medical Center construction projects by monitoring our website:

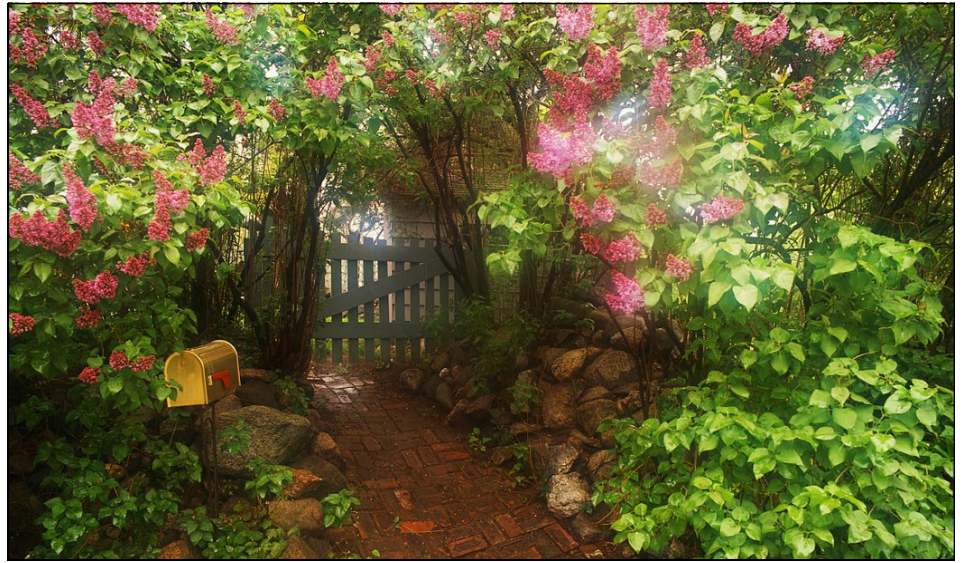
<http://www.washingtondcva.gov>

and Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/WashingtonDCVAMC>.

and Twitter:

<http://www.twitter.com/DCVAMC>



The Medical Center’s Healing Garden will feature lush plants and vegetation to incorporate aromatic and tactile experiences to promote wellness.

Planetree Guides Patient Ward Renovations

Employing the Planetree philosophy to transform the environment of the Medical Center into an entirely patient-centered experience, an extensive renovation will soon begin on the 4th floor patient ward. During the first phase, 4C wing will be completely renovated to include a new roof level patio and 28 new private patient rooms including private areas for patient and family consultations.



Artist renditions of planned renovations on 4C. This depicts a new private patient room. The rooms will include desk space for the patient’s lap-top and a sleeping space for a family member to stay overnight.



The new ward common area concept. The curved lines of the lighting, walls and flooring mimic the curved lines found in nature.

Environment, Inside and Out

Dental Clinic's Extreme Makeover

The Dental Clinic will be getting a facelift — the flooring and cabinetry were original to the hospital in 1962! The expansion will provide room for three new dental residents to offer more specialized in-house services. Veterans will see extensive renovation to 15,000 square feet of the existing space to include: all dental operatories, the laboratory and the sterilization center. Waiting areas and communal conference areas will be relocated to improve patient privacy.

Gastroenterology Expands

The expansion and renovation of Gastroenterology (GI) will allow the Medical Center to provide more Veterans with GI procedures. The project will include three new state-of-the-art procedure rooms including fluoroscopy, as well as a redesign of the administrative area and the waiting area. The design will enhance the therapeutic environment for all Veterans requiring GI procedures.

New Administration Building

To make for more clinical space within the main hospital, a new four-story administration building will be constructed on the East side of the Medical Center campus. Site preparation has begun on the design-build project which will provide 40,000 sq. ft. of office space.

Fisher House — Home Away From Home



The new Fisher House is being built as a public-private partnership to provide living accommodations for Veterans and their families who are receiving care at the Medical Center. The house will have 20 private rooms and common areas with a kitchen, dining room, family room, living room, laundry room and patio area. Having family members nearby is important to Veterans who are meeting the challenges of rehabilitations for war injuries and life-threatening illness. The project is expected to be completed in January 2011.

New Residential Treatment Facility

A new 77-bed Domiciliary will provide residential rehabilitation treatment to eligible Veterans. The Domiciliary program provides the necessary medical and psychiatric care, and other therapeutic measures in a safe, semi-structured and homelike environment. The three-story structure will be located in the back of the Medical Center.



LodgeNet Launched



Veteran James Page uses LodgeNet, the interactive television, from his bedside to review his schedule during his recent hospital stay. The system, integrated with the VA's award-winning VistA health information system, is easy to use and creates a better patient experience. The system is similar to those found in hotels, where guests can access a variety of hotels amenities and information by clicking the remote control.

Infrastructure Updates

Improvements are underway on the Medical Center's infrastructure and the inside for life safety features. Improvements include :

- A new boiler plant
- New chillers
- New hot water system
- Elevator upgrades
- Roofing and flooring
- Nurse call buttons
- Electrical system & lighting
- Sprinkler system
- Air handlers
- OR expansion
- Telecom upgrades
- Security Improvements
- Patient lift system
- New outdoor lighting
- New outdoor signage

Green Initiatives Lower Hospital's Electricity Usage

The Medical Center has decreased its electrical costs with energy- saving projects like installing compact fluorescent lights, sensors and auto dimmers on restrooms and less-traveled hallways, and utilizing smart climate control programming.

We are on a mission to promote wellness while "going green". Our leaders are striving to incorporate green building materials and energy-reducing strategies into the many current renovation and construction projects planned and underway.

In the many construction projects underway and planned, the Medical Center Leadership is employing sustainable building strategies including: using local materials when possible, day lighting with skylights and courtyards, window glazing on north and south facing windows, and incorporating overhangs and recesses for shade.

The Medical Center's Annual Cost and Conservation Festival gets employees involved in the energy-saving initiatives by raising awareness and soliciting suggestions.



Community-based Outpatient Clinics: Bringing Quality Health Care Closer to Home



VA Fort Belvoir clinic

(Photo above) The Fort Belvoir Community-based Outpatient Clinic's (CBOC) Sunrise Pavilion is under construction. Located on historic Fort Belvoir in Virginia, the 10,000 square foot clinic will offer primary care, mental health, audiology, and optometry services to Veterans. The CBOC, more than 50 percent finished, is expected to be complete in September 2011.

Andrews AFB/Prince Georges County

A new CBOC is planned for Southern Maryland in Prince George's County. The current proposed site is in Suitland, Maryland and expected to open FY10. The plan calls for 10,000 square feet of space and will include several different clinics including primary care, mental health, dental, audiology and nutrition.

Greenbelt CBOC

The Greenbelt CBOC is being expanded. Contracting is in the preliminary stages of procuring a lease for a larger clinic (approximately 5, 000 square feet).

Patuxent River Naval Health Clinic

The Medical Center is exploring a partnership with the Patuxent River Naval Station to provide primary care, and some specialty services for Veterans living in the area.

Southern Maryland/Charlotte Hall CBOC

The Medical Center is expanding its presence to enhance the scope of services offered at in Southern Maryland. Dental Services will be provided. Check the DCVAMC website for upcoming information.

Have the latest information about the Washington DC VA Medical Center available any time of the day or night!

Veterans can log onto:

www.washingtondc.va.gov

Employees may visit the Medical Center's Intranet website at work.

If you have any concerns about our renovations, please phone:

202-745-8000 ext. 8221.

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Department of Veterans Affairs